
THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

General Bulletin

October 26, 1921

DEDICATING THE PEKING MEDICAL COLLEGE*

Peking is beautiful in the early autumn. The hutung dust is then less stifling than usual, the open shops present fascinating pictures on all the streets, the itinerant venders and beggars send forth their calls harmoniously, funeral and wedding processions display their most gorgeous designs. Through the clear air the western hills stand out green and purple in the distance; and in the foreground rise Coal Hill with its artistic little pagodas, the magnificent gates of the Tartar Wall, the Imperial City with its yellow roofs and, not less conspicuous, the great green roofs of the Yü Wang Fu, the new medical college and hospital.

To see and to dedicate the Peking Medical College, scientists and delegates came at this alluring period of the autumn, from Japan, from England, Scotland and Ireland, from Java and Korea and the Philippines, from Canada and from France, from the United States and from every important province of China.

The academic procession of these eminent visitors on September 19 was striking in its contrasts. Scientists from the East and from the West marched together in occidental academic costume, passing in slow procession beneath the great overhanging roofs of green tile, past modern laboratories and age-old water carts, through rows of students of western medicine and past groups of wondering coolies and ever-present beggars. The street cries of the singing craftsmen merged with the martial rhythm of the new great organ as the column swept slowly into the beautiful temple building which within proved to be a modern auditorium.

The Program of the Week

The dedication ceremonies and the medical conference held in connection with these exercises extended over a week and a day - from September 15 to September 22.

Each morning clinic sections occupied the first two hours, visiting professors alternating with members of the college faculty in giving demonstrations in medicine, surgery, obstetrics, pathology, and the medical and

*This Bulletin contains an informal account of the dedication written by Edwin R. Embree, the Secretary of the Foundation and of the Peking Trustees, who has just returned to New York after four months in Peking conferring with the Director and Faculty concerning the program and budget of the college.



Section from the Pathe film - The Academic Procession passing from the college laboratories to auditorium - Drs. de Schweinitz, Florence Sabin, Goldwater, Barton, and Tuffier are conspicuous from right to left behind the marshall, who carries the baton.

surgical specialties. The attendance and the interest at these six or seven sectional clinics held each morning throughout the week were a gauge of the scientific value of the conference and a prophecy of the significance to individuals and institutions throughout China of the new college and its brilliant faculty.

The last hour of each morning was devoted to a paper delivered in the college auditorium by one of the visiting scientists on some phase of medicine.

The afternoons were given over to receptions, to inspection of the new buildings, and to personally conducted sightseeing tours about Peking.

At nine each evening an address on a medical topic of general interest was given in the auditorium. These evening programs included an introductory survey of medical education in China by Dr. Hume, of Changsha; a recount of adventures in public health by President Vincent; moving pictures and demonstrations of health propaganda by Dr. W. W. Peter, of the China Public Health Council; and the valedictory address of the Conference by Dr. Welch.

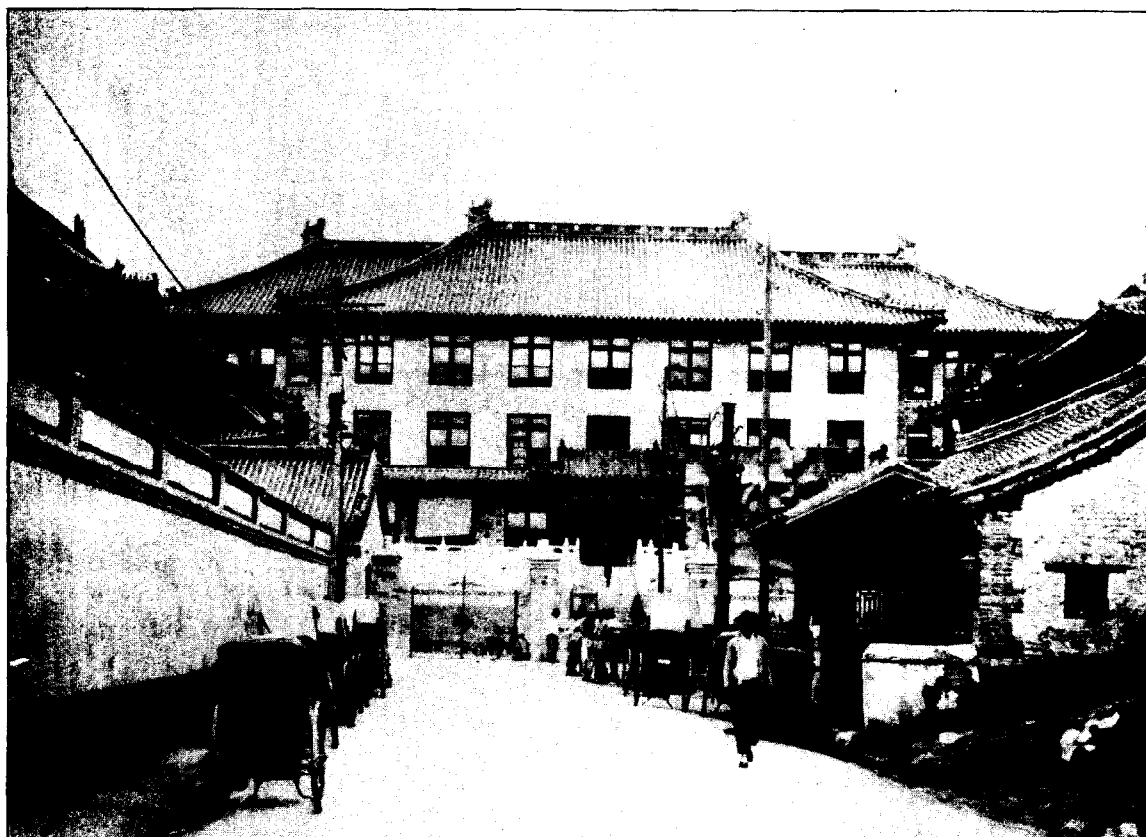
Such was the skeleton of the program. It was fleshed out, in accordance with individual tastes and opportunities, by the widest variety of scientific and social functions.



Scene in the court between the main gate of the college and the auditorium - Physiology building in center of picture.
Across this space the academic procession marched to the dedication ceremonies

The foreign legations gave dinners and teas; Chinese societies gave luncheons; the Peking Chamber of Commerce bundled us all off in a flock of automobiles late one afternoon to the summer palace of the late Empress Dowager for a picnic supper and a magic view by the yellow September moon of the royal pleasure grounds among the Western Hills. The President of the Republic gave a formal reception - top hats and frock coats - in the ugliest of green-carpeted rooms situated in an otherwise picturesque portion of the old Forbidden City. A dinner to faculty, trustees, and delegates closed Saturday evening in a riot of speech making. On Sunday morning Bishop Roots presided at the service in the college auditorium or chapel; in the evening a new era began in Peking life with a recital on the college organ, the first such instrument - save for a tiny one in the Catholic Church - to make its appearance these thousands of years in this old capital of China.

During all these days the trustees were attending few receptions or clinics. They were meeting in the council room of the college from nine o'clock in the morning until five or six in the afternoon of every day,



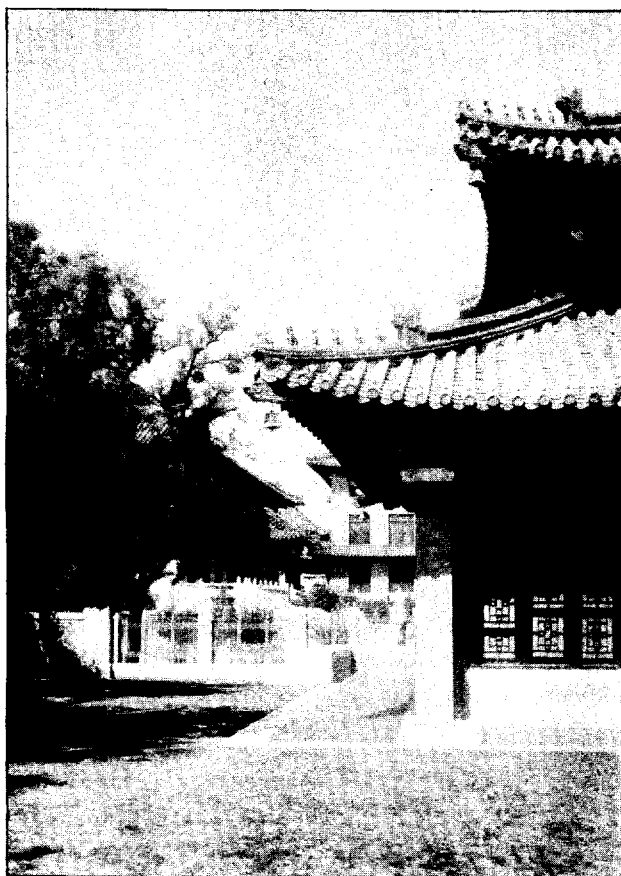
The west gate of the Yü Wang Fu - entrance to the hospital and nurses home. Native buildings and rickshaws are shown on either side of the hutung or street in the foreground

reviewing each item of the budgets proposed for this and the next two years, considering in detail the plans and needs and opportunities of this institution which presents so many vexed problems yet which seems to promise so much for the future of medicine in China.

The Institution Which was Dedicated

The institution which was being dedicated is a medical college and hospital erected by the Rockefeller Foundation in architecture characteristic of the best in Chinese classic and sacred buildings, and maintained in accordance with high modern scientific standards.

Sixteen buildings, with sweeping green tile roofs and great overhanging eaves, house the laboratories, hospital wards, and auxiliary structures of the institution proper. These are situated on the Yü Wang Fu, the ancient palace grounds of Prince Yü.



A Corner of the College Auditorium
Showing Anatomy Building at
the Left Across the Street

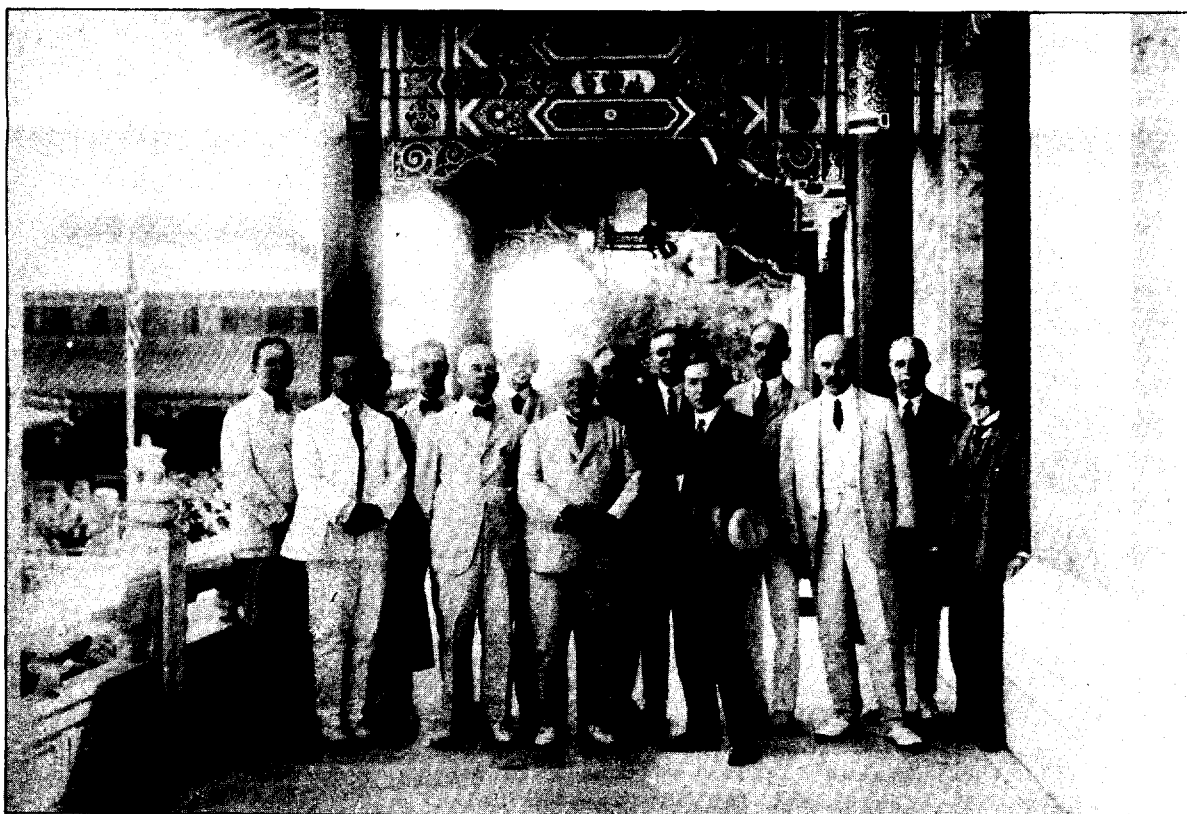
One block east, on Hata-men Street, stands the building of the old Union Medical College now occupied by the Pre-Medical School, which gives three years of intensive training in the chemical, physical, and biological sciences preparatory to medicine. A little further east, across Hatamen Street and situated a couple of blocks apart, are the north and south residence compounds. Here, shut off by high walls from the dirty, disease-filled hutungs of Peking, groups of modern brick houses with electric lights, furnace heat, and running water, stand on trim New England lawns, shaded by ancient trees, banked by shrubs and flowers. These are the homes of members of the faculty and their families. Near the south compound stands the old H'sin kai lu Hospital, now being transformed into a men's dormitory. Adjoining both the H'sin kai lu and the south compound lie the palace grounds of Prince Yi in dilapidated grandeur.

The faculty falls naturally into three groups: first, a

nucleus of physicians who have served valuable terms in mission hospitals and schools and who were selected from the six or seven hundred medical missionaries in China and further trained under fellowships in England or America before being called to positions on the staff; second, a group who have been brought directly from teaching or research institutions in the West to continue their scientific careers in the new college; and third, Chinese. These latter already form a fair proportion of the whole faculty. It is hoped that their number will steadily increase and that their academic and administrative responsibilities will be rapidly extended.

It has not been a simple matter to assemble this group of able men and women in a new institution situated far from other centers of scientific work. Nor has it been easy for them to settle down to their work in this strange environment during these first years when buildings were still in process of construction and programs and policies were still being worked out.

It is difficult to give a true picture of any aspect of life or work in Peking. The residence compounds are trim and pretty. Yet living shut in by compound walls on the doorsteps of the families of the same people with whom one is working all day in laboratories and wards, makes life a bit intense. Twenty to thirty children per compound do not add to the quiet of life nor to the ease of neighborliness. Outside the compounds the city of Peking has aspects of beauty, many ramifications of interest



Group of Trustees and Officers of Peking Union Medical College
taken by the entrance porch of the Anatomy Building

From left to right: Dr. Francis W. Peabody, of Harvard Medical School; Dr. Henry S. Houghton, Director of the College; Miss Eggleston, Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trustees; Edwin R. Embree, Secretary of the Rockefeller Foundation; Prof. Paul Monroe, Teachers College, Columbia University; James L. Barton, Secretary, American Board of Foreign Missions; Dr. William H. Welch, of Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Richard M. Pearce, Director, Foundation's Division of Medical Education; George E. Vincent, President, Rockefeller Foundation; John D. Rockefeller, Jr.; Roger S. Greene, Resident Director of the Foundation's China Medical Board; F. H. Hawkins, London Missionary Society; Martin A. Ryerson, Chairman, Board of Trustees, University of Chicago; J. Christie Reid, Medical Missionary Association of London.

and charm, but these are enveloped in dirt and violent smells, and an all-pervading atmosphere of poverty and disease. House rent and such clothing as can be purchased, laundry and abundance of servants are cheap beyond the imagination of Western householders. But there are things which no amount of money can buy for the resident of the dingy city of Peking.

Policies of the College - Expense

It was recognized when plans for China were first considered, that neither this institution nor any number of schools which one agency might maintain would be able to train the great body of medical practitioners needed by the Chinese. The purpose therefore in establishing the college was to set standards, to train leaders, to demonstrate what an adequate medical college in China might represent. Thus by a single institution it was hoped to influence an entire nation. This purpose has been adhered to consistently. It is because of this purpose that so great significance was attached to the attendance at the dedication of the large body of medical men from all parts of China and to their expressed desire to share in the opportunities for co-operation and for advanced study.

The expense of constructing the buildings has been great. The war, loss in exchange, and the difficulty of erecting Western laboratories and wards and in installing power-driven machinery in the Orient have all contributed to multiply a total cost which under the best of conditions probably would have amounted to four millions gold. The expenditures for equipment and supplies also have been larger than originally planned.

Finally the costs for annual maintenance threatened to become intolerably great. In order to study the program and to develop it in detail, to analyze the proposed expenditures and, so far as seemed wise, to reduce them, officers of the Foundation spent recent months in Peking and the trustees of the college and certain members of the China Medical Board and Foundation journeyed to Peking this autumn and devoted many hours to considering every aspect of the work and every item of the proposed expenditures.

The budgets agreed to for the college and hospital for the next three years are slightly below those of similar well-established institutions of high standing in the United States. Of course the classes of students are still small, and not more than 175 hospital beds are to be used at present.

The sums made available, so much above those of other colleges and hospitals in the Chinese Republic, and the programs adopted make this institution unique in all China,- in some aspects unique in the entire Far East.

This places upon the faculty a responsibility for leadership in teaching, in hospital management and in the advancement of medical science and the public health to which they are alive. Few medical schools, few faculties have ever had before them the opportunities or the challenge to high endeavor which now confront the Peking Union Medical College.

China, as one is constantly reminded, is a great and slow-moving mass. The very magnitude of the work forbids the expectation of hasty results - Rome was not built in a day. As Mr. Rockefeller pointed out in his dedication address, not in terms of a day nor a year nor a decade is the work of this institution to be judged. But in the revolving years and generations who can tell to what tree of influence this mustard seed may grow in the life of the great old country of China.